

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay, Hawai'i Island is located 4.5 miles  
2 south of the town of Kailua-Kona situated in a major resort  
3 area, recording over four hundred thousand visitors annually;  
4 and  
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6 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a  
7 sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds,  
8 and barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing  
9 conditions for hunter-gatherers in the area; and  
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11 WHEREAS, resulting from its historic nature and popularity  
12 among visitors, there have been recent efforts by the County of  
13 Hawai'i, in partnership with the Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay  
14 Education Center, to preserve the beach park for future  
15 generations through the promotion of reef-friendly practices;  
16 and  
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18 WHEREAS, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution  
19 No. 52, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 2021, which requested  
20 the Department of Land and Natural Resources and County of  
21 Hawai'i to collaborate to identify sea level rise at Kahalu'u Bay  
22 to avoid further deterioration and damage caused by rising sea  
23 levels; and  
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25 WHEREAS, while an interagency Kahalu'u Bay Restoration  
26 Working Group, comprised of state and county officials and  
27 community leaders, planned for the restoration of the Kahalu'u  
28 Beach Park, the Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working Group's findings  
29 warrant a prioritization of Hawai'i Island's overall coastal  
30 planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and



1 coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process;  
2 and  
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4 WHEREAS, scientific research and professional planning are  
5 additionally needed to augment ongoing stewardship activities if  
6 the Kahalu'u Bay and Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park are to remain  
7 natural resource assets for all of Hawai'i's people and visitors  
8 to enjoy; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
11 can partner with a non-federal sponsor to develop aquatic  
12 ecosystem restoration and protection projects that improve the  
13 quality of the environment; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the Corps' Continuing Authorities Program is a  
16 group of nine legislative authorities under which the Corps can  
17 plan, design, and implement certain types of water resource  
18 projects without additional project specific Congressional  
19 authorization; and  
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21 WHEREAS, to secure funding under the Continuing Authorities  
22 Program, the County of Hawai'i must undergo a lengthy process  
23 that includes a feasibility study, support for the study under  
24 the President of the United States' budget, and appropriations  
25 by Congress to initiate the project; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, as the Continuing Authorities Program has a delay  
28 of two fiscal years, the County of Hawai'i must act prudently to  
29 protect and preserve Kahalu'u Bay and the surrounding beach park  
30 area from impacts caused by climate change and tourism; now,  
31 therefore,  
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports the  
36 ongoing efforts by the County of Hawaii to pursue funding by the  
37 United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities  
38 Program for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay in Hawai'i Island;  
39 and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 174

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of the  
3 Hawai'i congressional delegation, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i,  
4 and members of the Hawai'i County Council.  
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OFFERED BY:

